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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BOB CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by Rabbi Milton Balkany, of New York.

### PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father in Heaven, snowflakes windswept to sky-piercing peaks do more than cloak mountaintops in their fine wintry vestments. Their varied crystalline structures speak of how You, the Master Artist, have sculpted our world to exemplify the beauty of contrast. Heartfelt differences are the hallmark of our times. O Lord, help us realize that division need not be the lyric of sorrow but the signature of brotherhood.

In the pursuit of truth and righteousness, disputes can compose verses of hard-won wisdom. Consider the rent of rock running through the Grand Canyon. It is a break, a fissure, a divide miles deep and, yet, is there a sight more majestic? Unity is not sameness, nor is it bland agreement. Only when Moses parted the waters was a nation set free.

We pray, O God, give us strength to grapple for the great good, defend the passion of our convictions, and still retain the devotion of brothers and sisters. Bless all of us in this hallowed hall of lawmaking with clarity of vision so that we may gaze upon the heights of our shared destiny. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BOB CASEY, Jr., led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, March 22, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BOB CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
*President pro tempore.*

Mr. CASEY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate will immediately resume consideration of the budget resolution. There are 25 hours of debate time left. The two managers have been doing an exemplary job of managing this bill. We still have a long way to go.

As I mentioned, 25 hours remain. We will have to see how we get to tomorrow morning. As I indicated a couple of days ago, unless the managers can agree on yielding back some time, we will have to stay in all night tonight and be in a position to start voting on the so-called vote-a-rama tomorrow.

We have a number of amendments pending. I am told that we have six or seven pending now. The managers will be making a decision about which amendments will be voted on between 11:30 and about 12:45, when we can pick

up another vote—around 12:45 or 1 o'clock. We anticipate other votes from 4 to 6. We may be able to back that off. As soon as the Appropriations Committee completes its work, we can start voting. So from 4 to 6—or maybe it can be 3 or 3:30 to 6.

We have a lot of committee meetings going on today all over the Senate office buildings. We are going to do our best to keep disruptions to a minimum. We cannot guarantee the meetings will not have to be interrupted. I have indicated to the Republican leader that we would not vote beyond 6 p.m. today. That may have to change. We will see if we have to come back after 8 o'clock to do what we can to clear off some of these votes. I would rather not do that, but we will discuss that with the managers and my distinguished counterpart, Senator MCCONNELL.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

### CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 21, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 21) setting forth the congressional budget for

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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